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BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY



John Chase and "Them Steers" at Chase's Mills, Turner, ca. 1880. Photo courtesy of Ben. B. Conant.

## THE GREENBACK MOVEMENT IN OXFORD COUNTY

by Stanley Russell Howe

*Editor's Note: This paper was originally given at the July 1985 meeting of the Bethel Historical Society. It has been revised and edited for publication in this issue.*

Few living in Western Maine today are aware of how much controversy the Greenback movement caused in the 1870s. It had statewide implications since it led in 1879-80 to the famous count-out showdown in Augusta where the foundation of democratic government was severely tested. Only with the intervention and leadership qualities of Civil War hero and former Maine Governor Joshua Chamberlain was bloodshed averted.

Money questions have been a dilemma since the beginning of the Republic. This controversy came out of the Civil War since the use of greenbacks had been one of the necessary measures instituted during the conflict. Although the movement essentially died in the 19th century, there was a Greenback candidate for president as late as 1944. For all practical purposes, however, the issue was dead in Oxford County by 1884.

Nationally, greenbackism was in the same tradition as the Grangers, free silver, and populism. It was part of the legacy of agrarian resistance to capital control and exploitation, extending back to the days of Shay's Rebellion in the 1780s. In some cases, it pitted the East

against the West, conservative v. radical, capitalist v. farmer, debtor v. creditor, and hard money v. soft currency. It can be characterized by agricultural interests opposed by mercantile and financial groups, wealth in land versus wealth seeking outlets in commerce and industry.

Greenbackism contained the Jacksonian anti-monopoly thread of American history. It was a movement of the people against the "interests." Its influence would live on in neopopulist movements, such as Huey Long's "Share the Wealth" campaign of the 1930s.

Two works useful in providing the national perspective are Robert Sharke, *Money, Class and Party: An Economic Study of Civil War and Reconstruction* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1959) and Irwin Unger, *The Greenback Era: A Social and Political History of Finance 1865-1879* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1964). The Maine perspective is usefully outlined in Everett L. Meader's University of Maine M.A. Thesis, "The Greenback Party in Maine, 1876-1884." Chamberlain's role in the count-out crisis is discussed in Ruth Rains Trulock's *In the Hands of Providence: Joshua L. Chamberlain and the American Civil War* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1992). Additional information on the greenback movement in Maine is found in Louis C. Hatch's *Maine: A History* (New York: American Historical Society, 1919).

During the Civil War, the United States went off the gold standard. In February 1862, the government began issuing greenbacks. Eventually, approximately \$450,000,000 worth of paper money was placed in circulation by the Union whereas the Confederacy issued more than \$1.5 billion. The value of this money fluctuated with the fortunes of war, but almost immediately, it was valued less than the face value. By 1864, \$1 in Union gold would equal \$2.84 greenback.

Redemption after the Civil War created a big problem. The Lincoln Administration spent more than \$3 billion; less than a fifth was covered by higher taxes, leaving a deficit of \$2.8 billion, one half of the Gross National Product of the era. It was not a uniform debt but one with different rates of interest and varying maturities and conditions.

Greenbacks raised moral as well as political and economic issues. There was the long-standing Puritan belief that soft money schemes were the work of the devil's hand. The 1865 contraction of the currency divided the country with speculators wanting more money and conservative businessmen afraid of speculation.

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By the 1870s, business exploded amid a flurry of stock speculation and a railroad boom. This tended only to worsen the serious deflation already present. Prices continued their decline because the money supply did not keep up with the volume of goods pouring out of farms and factories.

In these difficult times for farmers, the panic of 1873 struck. To some, it was seen as God's punishment for the excesses of what became known in Mark Twain's words as "the Gilded Age." Many Republicans left the party in disgust with the Grand administration and its corruption. Former Governor Chamberlain summed it up succinctly in 1880: "Distrust of Blaine more than anything is the origin and strength of the Greenback party in Maine."

Hard times for farmers would last for almost a decade. Greenbackism not only emphasized currency issues, but also supported better working conditions for factory workers, attempting to broaden its appeal to the laboring classes as well as farmers. It became a factor in Maine politics by the mid-1870s, but does not become an important movement in Oxford County until 1877 when in August of that year, Greenbackers held their convention in Paris, the county seat.

Much of the information one must consult for any knowledge of the Greenback movement in Oxford County comes from the pages of the *Oxford Democrat*, a militantly Republican paper at this time, very hostile to the cause of Greenbackism.

At the 1877 convention, candidates were selected for the forthcoming elections. George Haskell, a marble worker from Bethel, was nominated for State Senator. Also nominated were Sewall Goff of Mexico, State Senator; Alorodo Hayford, Canton, Register of Deeds; Joseph G. Mendall, Hartford, County Commissioner; Solon Royal, Paris, County Treasurer. The convention heard Almon Gage of New York for 1 3/4 hours. According to the *Democrat*, it was an instance where the "man and address [were found] pleasing" and "the learning extended, the flow of language complete." These attributes, cautioned the newspaper in a noteworthy case of hyperbole, "combine to make him the most dangerous man who ever addressed an Oxford County audience."

The *Democrat* then launched into a denunciation of Gage, calling him a "demagogue," and a "revolutionist of the worst character." The newspaper condemned him for comparing laborers to a worm which is trod upon by the powerful interests, and predicted he would be the type to approach Treasury Secretary Sherman with "dagger in hand." It characterized his address as "abounding in denunciation of the wealthy and commiseration for the poor."

The *Democrat* had equally unfavorable sentiments toward Frank Fogg of Auburn, who became one of its favorite whipping boys, denouncing him for his views on "free love and fiat money." After the 1878 elections, Fogg was criticized by the newspaper as something worse than "this Moses sent to release us from political bondage (only to lead us into the desert of disgrace)."

Fogg's "twin" according to the *Democrat* was Solon Chase of Chase's Mills in Turner. He was born in that town on 14 January 1823. His mother taught him the rudiments of education before he attended Turner schools and the

academy at Gorham. President Tyler appointed him to West Point, but after three weeks, he was diagnosed with tuberculosis and forced to resign. He protested the dismissal to President Tyler in a visit to the Chief Executive's office, but the President could do little for him except to advise him to "stay in Washington a few days, young man, and see the sights."

Chase followed the President's counsel and toured the city. Since he believed his time there would be a "once in a lifetime" experience, he decided to make the most of the opportunity by registering at one of the fancier hotels in Washington. He spent two days sightseeing and worrying about his hotel bill, finally deciding to leave only to find, according to the desk clerk, that he had been the guest of President Tyler.

He left Washington for Chase's Mills and soon married Anne Phillips. He settled down to farm and except for two years in the Maine Legislature (1862 & 1863) lived a quiet life until he was attracted by Greenbackism.

Chase was personally affected by the depression of the 1870s. When asked why he was instrumental in organizing the Greenback party, he replied, "I had always been a Whig but the 'greenback religion' fell on me out of a clear sky." "I was," he added, "converted like Saul of Tarsus."

Actually it did not happen just that way. Chase was a Republican whom President Johnson appointed as collector of internal revenue, but the U.S. Senate refused to confirm him. He became a Democrat and in 1875 introduced a soft money resolution at the Democratic Convention. It was voted down so he became a Greenbacker.

During this period he became known to many as "Uncle Solon." His fame spread throughout Maine with his travels around the State accompanied by "them steers." Wearing a pair of leather boots, and driving "them steers" he spoke effectively on behalf of the greenback cause. The steers, the boots, and his quaint language, attracted wide attention.

At almost every stop, he told the story of "them steers." He had bought them when they were three years old and paid \$100 for them. After feeding and caring for them for a full year they were still worth only \$100--graphically illustrating the farmer's plight with the contraction of the currency that occurred in that era. "If I had bought a government bond for the hundred dollars," he observed, "I would have received interest on the bond which would have increased the value as fast as a pair of steers grew."

Rural people came from far and wide to greet "Uncle Solon" and "them steers." His audiences grew along with his fame. Conversions were being made from the established parties.

To many of his opponents, his demeanor appeared demagogic, his debating logic likened to that of a simpleton. His straight forward, simple arguments, however, touched a responsive chord with his largely agricultural audiences. Both Republicans and Democrats were alarmed with his growing influence.

Believing correctly that his views were not receiving fair coverage in many of the State's newspapers, "Uncle Solon" founded his own publication called *Chases' Mill Chronicle*. Interest grew rapidly until circulation reached somewhere between 3000 and 4000. A weekly, the price was twenty-five cents for three months. Under the masthead appeared this bit of advice:



*It's good easy reading and written quite plain,  
If you have any doubts, and have any sense  
You'll try it three months for twenty-five cents.*

Chase's newspaper helped bring many conversions to the Greenback banner. It was circulated throughout the United States, making "Uncle Solon" a national figure in the process.

In the elections of 1877, Chase's influence was felt most strongly in neighboring Buckfield in Oxford County where the Greenback gubernatorial candidate H.C. Munson received 175 votes. Other county results point to rising Greenback support: Hebron 52, Oxford 63, Norway 54, Sumner 61, Peru 85, Paris 47, Greenwood 81 and Bethel 102. Munson received 3770 votes state-wide and 905 in Oxford County.

To the *Democrat*, Chase was a "buffoon." Even more ominously, his influence was seen as even more dangerous for in May 1878, the newspaper was declaring that some of his converts had gone too far "toward communism that they make bold to say that property ought to be divided equally among the people." It is important to remember that the violence and extremism associated with the Paris Commune of 1870-71 was fresh in the minds of some Americans. Greenback agitation did nothing to reassure many citizens that what had recently happened in France would not come across the Atlantic.

Adding to the plight of farmers was the fact that hops as a significant cash crop were largely gone by the 1870s for many farmers. Chase made note of this in his travels around the State.

As the campaign of 1878 got under way, the Greenbackers selected Joseph L. Smith of Old Town as their nominee. A bond holder, not a farmer, Smith ran on a platform of economy, prosperity, and reform. To the *Democrat*, he was inconsistent on the issue of economy, having voted according to the newspaper for raising state officials salaries, supported a county supervisor of schools, advocated larger appropriations for the State College (not so unlikely representing an adjoining town to Orono), and favored double mileage for members of the Legislature.

The pages of the *Democrat* are filled with ridicule for the Greenback party. In June 1878 the newspaper gloated that only seventy five attended a picnic in Paris. It pointed out that the party seemed to be "going in one direction while its gubernatorial candidate went in another." Calling the Greenback convention in Paris "a laughable farce," the newspaper recorded the various nominees selected for office in September.

Through the month of August and into September 1878, "Uncle Solon" was making the case for Greenbackism throughout Maine. He spoke in several parts of Oxford County, including the towns of Hanover, Andover and Bethel.

The major parties were not idle in defending the status quo. Enoch W. Woodbury of Bethel Hill spoke in East Bethel against Greenbackism with only one member of the party in the audience according to the *Democrat*. Bethel attorney William P. Frye gave an address in Pattee's Hall at Bethel Hill defending the Republican party and decrying the assault on the nation's credit.

When the votes were counted for governor, Republican Seldon Connor failed re-election although he won the

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## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

As I begin my third year as president, I am hopeful that the coming months will be among the Society's most successful. The Richardson Lakes book should be out early next year and promises to be very popular. 1996 marks Bethel's bicentenary and that can be expected to promote renewed interest in the town's history. Our committees are working on a number of projects that will be announced in due course. All of these developments and several others point in the direction of exciting and busy times ahead for our organization.

I urge all of you to get involved in some activity associated with the Society if you possibly can. You will be helping us to make this time the Society's most productive to date and lay important groundwork for the future.

Charles Raymond

## IN MEMORIAM

Died, 1 September 1995, Norma R. Jodrey, Bethel, Life Member

Died, 4 October 1995, Charles M. Austin, Naples, Life Member

Died, 10 October 1995, Walter W. Wright, Brunswick and Paris Hill, Sustaining Member

Died, 22 November 1995, Mildred C. Thomas, Bethel, Honorary Member

## NEW LIFE MEMBERS

M. Heinie and Sharon Merrill, Bethel

## 30TH ANNUAL MEETING

President Charles Raymond called the 30th Annual Meeting to order on September 7 following a delicious pot luck supper served by the Special Projects Committee headed by Persis Post. A moment of silence was observed for all Bethel Historical Society members who have died since the last annual meeting: Guy P. Butler, Louis Paul, Archibald Post, Harriet Stowell, Olive Grover Ferguson, Jeanette Sanborn Potsaid, Paul A. Judkins, Charles Smith, Maxine Brown, Beverly K. Haines, and Norma Jodrey.

President Raymond provided some of the highlights of the past year: more than fifty donors added to the collections of the Society, a number of successful special events held, several grants received, more than fifty new members added to the rolls, annual fund raised over \$8500 from more than 300 donors, China exhibit attracted much interest, and over 500 copies sold to date of the latest publication project on the Richardson Lakes. He thanked all those who worked so hard for the Society during the past year.

Arlene Lowell, chair of the Nominating Committee, announced the Committee's selections: President, Charles Raymond; Vice President, Walter Hatch; Secretary and

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## SOCIETY SALES DEPARTMENT

The Society maintains a selection of modestly priced gifts and historical publications. These may be ordered at the prices listed below. Maine residents should include 6% sales tax. Orders under \$10 should include \$1 for postage and handling; those over \$10 but under \$20 should include \$2 and all those over \$20 should include \$3 for postage and handling.

Moses Mason House Tile	\$3.50
Stationery (package of ten sheets and ten envelopes)	\$2 ea.
Moses Mason House	Bethel Railroad Station
Summer House	Bethel Covered Bridge
Booklets	
"The Family Farm"	75¢
"Made in Bethel"	75¢
"Dr. Moses Mason and His House"	\$1
"Molly Ockett"	\$2
1995 New England Calendars (Barns or Covered Bridges)	\$9.95
Maps and Atlases	
1880 Map of Bethel Hill	\$2
1880 Map of Entire Town (Bethel)	\$2
1878 Bird's Eye View of Bethel Hill	\$1
1858 Atlas of Oxford County	\$7.50
Tote Bag (Moses Mason Museum logo)	sm. \$7.50 lg. \$11.50
Placemats, 4 Season (set of four)	\$7.50
Books	
Carrie Wight, A HISTORY OF NEWRY	\$5
Hutchinson, THE RUMFORD FALLS & RANGELEY LAKES RAILROAD	\$20
BETHEL, MAINE CEMETERIES	\$9.50
Russell, INDIAN NEW ENGLAND BEFORE THE MAYFLOWER	\$15.95
N.F. Little, AMERICAN DECORATIVE WALL PAINTING 1700-1850	\$9.95
R. Crosby, FROM AN OLD LEATHER TRUNK	\$5
W.B. Lapham, HISTORY OF WOODSTOCK, MAINE	\$19.95
MAINE: THE PINE TREE STATE FROM PREHISTORY TO THE PRESENT	\$29.95
Bennett, THE WHITE MOUNTAINS	\$14.99
D.B. Wight, WILD RIVER WILDERNESS	\$4
Francis Parkman, THE GOULD ACADEMY STORY	\$7.50
MAINE IN THE EARLY REPUBLIC	\$29.95
Thomas Hubka, BIG HOUSE, LITTLE HOUSE, BACK HOUSE BARN: THE CONNECTED FARM BUILDINGS OF NEW ENGLAND	Paper \$22.95. Cloth \$35
Bennett, BETHEL, MAINE: AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY	\$39.95
M.F. King, ANNALS OF OXFORD	\$48
R. Crosby, I WAS A SUMMER BOARDER	\$5
Howe, MAINE GRANGE HISTORY	\$19.95
Paula Wight, NEWRY PROFILES	\$5
Eva Bean, EAST BETHEL ROAD	\$50
R.H. Bennett, OXFORD COUNTY, MAINE	\$18
William B. Lapham, HISTORY OF BETHEL, 1768-1890	\$45
Barnes, MAINE LIFE: THE PHOTOGRAPHS OF NETTIE MAXIM CUMMINGS	\$16.99
GENEALOGY OF THE SAMUEL & FRANCES (PEMBROKE) MILLS FAMILY	\$5
T-Shirts	
Moses Mason Museum (Adult) (S,M,L,XL)	\$8
Moses Mason Museum (Child's) (4-6-8-10-12-14)	\$7
Sudbury Canada 1768-1796 (Adult) (S,M,L,XL)	\$8
Sudbury Canada 1768-1796 (Child's) (4-6-8-10-12-14)	\$7
Post Cards: Dr. Mason, Agnes Mason, Moses Mason House	10¢ ea.

Members of the Bethel Historical Society are entitled to a 10% discount for purchases totaling \$10 or more. Please send orders to the Society at P.O. Box 12, Bethel, Maine 04217. They will be sent by return mail. If you have questions, please call toll free: 1-800-824-2910.

(Annual Meeting, continued from page 3)

Clerk of the Trustees, Shireen Vincent; Treasurer, Roger Conant; Trustees for 3 years: Lorrie Hoeh and Margaret Wight. All of the above were approved by the membership without dissent. Retiring trustees Olive Anderson and Barbara Honkala were praised by the president for their dedicated service.

The president announced five new honorary members, approved by the Board of Trustees for those over seventy five who have compiled an outstanding record of service to the Society. Don Brown was honored for his generous donation of photographs to the Society's collection. With his wife Arlene, he has provided programs at Society meetings on Chapman Street and the history of the Methodist Church, both of which have been published in the *Courier*. He served as a trustee from 1985-90. Allan Fraser was selected for his long service on the Collections Committee of the Society and for his working with student groups and at Sudbury Canada Days as a host of the Farming/Logging Exhibit. He has been a generous donor of photographs and other ephemera and volunteered photographic services to the Society for a number of years, copying and making slides of hundreds of old photographs. He has been an enthusiastic and generous supporter of the Richardson Lakes book project, loaning numerous photographs and promoting pre-publication sales. Geraldine S. Howe was honored since she is one of the few living Charter Members, has served on the Program Committee since 1973, as a guide in the museum since 1974, and many years on the Garden and Grounds Committee. She has volunteered for a wide range of activities including working on mailings to assisting at the annual Faye Taylor Memorial Art Show. This summer she provided flowers each week for the museum. She has presented several programs on street histories at Society meetings, several of which have been subsequently published in the *Courier*. Margaret Joy Tibbetts was selected for her service as vice-president, president, treasurer, and Trustee Chairman for twenty years. She has labored for years on the Gardens and Grounds Committee, served as a museum guide, and continues to head the Society's Investment and Finance Committee. She has served as a judge for the annual Dr. Moses Mason Award and presented a number of programs at Society meetings. She has been a frequent contributor to the *Courier*. Willard Wight has been active in the Society for many years, serving as a member of the Nominating Committee and as a trustee, 1982-85.

Former Board chair Margaret Joy Tibbetts presented the 1995 Marjorie MacArthur Noll Volunteer Service Award to Rodney and Geraldine Howe for their long service to the Society. Geraldine Howe's contributions are cited above. Ms. Tibbetts praised Rodney Howe, her Gould Academy classmate, for his lengthy service, dating back to 1974. He was a very active volunteer for Indian Raid '81 and has been for Sudbury Canada Days since 1980. He has cut numerous dead trees on the Society property, helped assemble the *Courier* for many years, and kept the Society meeting room supplied with wood since 1974. His most ambitious project was the restoration of the stone wall between the Society property and that of Bethel Inn. His current project is working on the restoration of the Sunday River snowroller for which he and his wife are donating the oak planking.



most votes. He garnered 3048 in Oxford County, versus 2072 for Joseph L. Smith, Greenback and 1496 for Alonzo Garcelon, Democrat. Smith carried the Oxford County towns of Andover, Buckfield, Canton, Dixfield, Oxford, Peru, Stoneham, and Stow. Bethel's gubernatorial vote was 229 Republican, 60 Democratic, and 167 Greenback. Buckfield sent a Greenbacker to represent it in the Maine Legislature.

Republicans also lost control of the Maine Legislature because of the Greenback insurgency. When the Legislature was forced to select the next governor since no candidate had a majority, they joined the Democrats in electing Alonzo Garcelon, who had run a poor third behind the Greenback candidate.

This result was preferable to the *Democrat* which quoted one observer who summed up the elections of 1878 by noting that they were "surprise to every one." He continued: "All those in debt were made to believe that if the greenback party got into power their debts would no longer be a burden to them, but Solon the great financier would make greenbacks so plentiful that every man would have enough and [some] to spare." Clearly the Greenbackers had shaken up Maine politics.

"Uncle Solon" garnered 8472 votes in the race for Congress in Maine's Second Congressional District to Republican William Frye's 11,434 and the Democratic candidate's paltry 3332. This was the closest Chase ever got to holding national office. Two Greenbackers won seats in the U.S. House of Representatives from Maine: Thompson H. Murch, a Rockland stone cutter and George W. Ladd, a Bangor merchant.

Buoyed by their success, Greenbackers attempted to run in local elections as well. In March 1879, the *Oxford Democrat* columnist for Bethel reported that the town meeting had soundly defeated Greenback candidates for Selectmen.

Amid all this turmoil, the 1879 fall elections loomed. At the Greenback convention held in Paris once more, Moses Hall of Boston spoke. To the *Democrat*, he was the "notorious advocate of free love and such nastiness" invited to tell the people of Oxford County "how terribly they are abused." Another speaker, J.H. Randall was described by the *Democrat* as using "threatening language which might be acceptable among foreign mechanics but was not relished by the sensible people of Oxford County." They were dismissed by the newspaper as a "couple of itinerants who have lent themselves out by the day to speak and sing vile stuff against the fairest names in the Nation."

Once more F.M. Fogg and "Uncle Solon" addressed the convention. Fogg spoke "all in the first person" noted the *Democrat*, declaring "it has never been our lot before to listen to such a bombastic mass of egotism." On Chase, the newspaper observed, "Sampson slew a thousand great men with the jaw of an ass, while Uncle Solon has a thousand live asses with prominent jaw bones and frisky heels to assist him."

As much as the *Democrat* railed against the insurgent party, there were strong breezes blowing against the newspaper's position. Compounding its sense of outrage was the fear that the Democratic party and the Greenback might fuse and run fusionist candidates against the Republicans.



Former Trustee chairman Margaret Joy Tibbetts (right) presents the 1995 Marjorie MacArthur Noll Volunteer Service Award to Rodney and Geraldine Howe at the Society's 30th Annual Meeting.

In discussing the speech of a Mrs. D. Still, who addressed the Greenbackers in Oxford County on child laws and money babies, the *Democrat* poured forth its disdain, "We have hundreds of farmers in Oxford County who can make a better speech on the subject of finances other than this woman imported from a distant state." The newspaper took a decidedly anti-outsider stance in relation to the Greenbackers characterizing them as "a dirty herd of free lovers and communists," and in this instance was decidedly anti-female in tone.

It took particular delight when Solon Chase lost control of the newspaper he began. In a column it declared that "Uncle Solon" had been "driven from the paper he founded and edited to make room for Col. Blood the mate of Victoria Woodhull [an avowed feminist who was a candidate for president in 1872] while Miller Hull and other worthies teach you to vote for free love, free suffrage, free rum and free everything."

As the date for the resumption of "hard" currency as provided in the Bland-Allison Act of 1878 approached (January 2, 1879), Greenbackers predicted ruin for the nation. When that did not happen, there was some slip-page away from the Greenback banner. By August 1879 when twenty seven former Greenbackers pledged in August 1879 to vote for the Republicans in the fall elections, the newspaper could hardly withhold its joy.

The *Democrat* seldom missed an opportunity to denounce the Greenback cause. In North Newry, a dog kept interrupting the speech of a prominent Greenbacker much to the glee of the newspaper, which reported that "whenever the speaker attempted to read, the dog repeated the interruption, showing that he was intelligent enough to appreciate the falseness of Mr. Pillsbury's statements and would not allow anyone to attempt to deceive the people."

Citing the case of a Mr. Hayden from Winslow, the *Democrat* cast doubt on Solon Chase's business acumen by pointing out that Hayden had sold his steers bought at \$65 for \$100 six months later. The newspaper also underscored the fact that "Uncle Solon" continued to sell his butter for ten cents a pound while Hayden got sixteen to twenty cents per pound for his.

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Just prior to the 1879 fall election, the *Democrat* strongly denounced the Greenbackers' "lunacy," branding them "traitors" and predicting the worst if they emerged victorious. There was a strong current in favor of the party, but already signs of prosperity were undermining the cause. In Bethel, the Greenback nominee for governor got 198 votes, to 289 for the Republican and only 61 for the Democrat. A number of Oxford County towns, however, did support the Greenback gubernatorial candidate. Dixfield, Buckfield, Greenwood, Newry, Peru, and Stow all registered Greenback victories for governor. In Gilead, the Greenback nominee tied the Republican. The party elected state senators in Oxford, Somerset, Penobscot, Waldo and Aroostook counties.

During the count-out crisis that occurred toward the end of 1879 and the beginning of 1880, the *Democrat* was particularly strident in its denunciation of those attempting to thwart Republicans from retaking the governorship. The newspaper blamed out-of-staters for causing the crisis with a plan "conceived in New York and brought to light in Boston and executed in Augusta which was to crush out popular government in Maine." The *Democrat* took great pleasure in reporting that the Republicans had prevailed through the Supreme Court's decisions and its interest in "law, order, peace and government for and by the people" against the actions of the "communists, the usurpers and revolutionists."

All of this turmoil continued to received the *Democrat's* steady condemnation. There were voting irregularities in many parts of the State, including Bethel, where charges were made of vote tampering. The pages of the newspaper contain several articles where these accusations are made and rebutted.

Greenbackism, however, began to lose its luster for farmers as prices improved for a number of commodities, ready markets for stock were available, and the currency stabilized. The *Democrat* reminded readers that "Uncle Solon" might still realize a profit on "Them Steers" with the return of prosperity.

It also held in contempt those areas where the Greenback party still seemed strong. In Milton, which voted heavily for Greenbackers, the newspaper sarcastically remarked that "a few common schools and a little consistent missionary work in Milton would prevent such pitiful exhibitions."

This comment prompted residents of Milton to respond that the people of that place were not to be "ground under by a few bloated bondholders" and they are "free and act as they please." The response from Milton went on to assert that the people of that plantation resented the attitude that there is no place in the world like Paris Hill and specifically attacked attorney Enoch Foster, a Republican, as "the duke of Bethel."

Maine survived the Fusionist take-over and the following year the State moved safely into the Republican column both in Legislative races and the contest for Governor. The high water mark of Greenbackism had been reached and the movement subsided almost as fast had it had risen.

In 1880, *Chase's Chronicle* became *Chase's Inquirer* and as the grip of the movement grew fainter, there was feuding over what was left of the party's direction. Frank Fogg

and Solon Chase became engaged in a bitter battle which was given special attention in the *Democrat*. Fogg accused Chase of being a chronic office seeker, not understanding the principles of Greenbackism, not really knowing what he wanted, being extremely selfish, exhibiting the characteristics of someone in his dotage, failing to fathom the Greenback platform, obtaining a post office fraudulently, getting James G. Blaine to secure his son a pension of \$60 per month, being half mule by always kicking up at the wrong end, having Congressman Nelson Dingley, a Republican pat him on the back, and belonging to seven different parties, never finding one that suited him. Fogg's solution for "Uncle Solon" was admission to the State insane asylum.

By this time, however, prosperity had begun to return and greenbacks were being redeemed. The real debate was between Fusionists and Democrats. It really didn't matter since the Greenback party was finished and the State returned to its usual two party status.

The Greenback party, however, continued to limp along. At the 1882 county convention, Col. Clark S. Edwards of Bethel, who would be the Democratic nominee for governor in 1886, served as secretary of the Greenback County Committee. Dr. John Morton of Bethel was also in attendance at that meeting where a draft for Edwards to run for Sheriff was scuttled by the former Civil War soldier. Bethel's Samuel F. Gibson, a lawyer who was a Copperhead during the Civil War, was nominated to run for County Attorney, receiving in the general election nine votes from his home town and only twenty others from the rest of the county. Republicans made big gains in the 1882 general election, which also saw the election of Frederick Robie of Gorham to the governorship as well.

By 1884 even Solon Chase was supporting the Republican nominee for President, James G. Blaine of Maine. Two Bethel men, W. E. Skillings and G. R. Wiley were still active in the Greenback movement locally. This may explain why the Greenback vote was one of the highest of any town in Oxford County that year. It was to be the last gasp of the party in elections.

Third parties in American history have never done very well. The Greenback movement caused some havoc during its high water mark in the late 1870s, particularly in Maine, where it led to much fear and dissension. It forced the two predominant parties to respond, but it really never had much chance of any long-range success. Its gubernatorial candidate won more votes than the Democrats in 1878 and in 1880 it denied Republicans the governorship. Nationally, the party's presidential candidate received over one million votes and elected fourteen members of the House of Representatives. It was, however, the return of prosperity and the redemption law that sealed the doom of the movement and ensured that the Greenback era would end forever. Some of its former members did later join the Populists, but that agitation also failed to achieve what its leaders had hoped for at the beginning.

## THE BETHEL SOLDIERS OF '61

(continued from the last issue)

From the pages of the *Oxford Advertiser*, 28 May 1886, compiled by Judge C.F. Whitman of Norway

The Grand Army was now nearing Richmond everyday. Its march was along the banks of the Pamunkey through



# GUBERNATORIAL VOTE FOR 1877, 1878, 1879, 1880

Source: *The Oxford Democrat*

Town	1877 R-D-G	1878 R-D-G	1879 R-G-D	1880 R-Fusionist
Albany	64-64-4	63-34-63	84-59-49	91-90
Andover	91-50-1	74-19-86	115-71-25	129-77
Bethel	174-64-102	229-60-167	289-198-61	296-254
Brownfield	114-173-0	83-108-79	118-107-87	110-213
Buckfield	74-76-175	96-62-186	109-198-53	125-260
Byron	21-21-2		23-13-11	29-21
Canton	83-93-2	106-60-61	126-100-57	138-158
Denmark	76-140-0	94-108-43	89-72-101	108-151
Dixfield	67-22-19	62-53-102	93-119-45	92-157
Fryeburg	187-155-0	201-100-102	227-100-120	241-200
Gilead	37-27-7	37-12-30	38-38-13	44-47
Grafton	5-6-7		5-14-0	4-20
Greenwood	72-30-81		68-109-27	72-141
Hanover	28-30-0	29-18-5	35-6-19	36-24
Hartford	108-26-67	106-20-86	121-105-15	126-119
Hebron	67-17-52		80-55-21	93-68
Hiram	189-114-0		187-80-110	202-156
Lovell	149-127-0	129-52-104	157-106-55	166-136
Mason	12-54-0	15-3-4	17-4-3	16-7
Mexico	31-27-12	37-23-23	50-35-14	55-45
Milton Pl.			3-56-0	15-51
Newry	20-41-2	26-33-23	41-56-11	45-58
Norway	216-158-54	280-127-128	336-139-180	373-329
Oxford	152-97-63	136-59-149	191-130-59	197-197
Paris	256-164-47	438-134-125	468-171-126	503-294
Peru	57-30-85	79-25-104	91-114-16	101-129
Porter	143-158-0	93-91-50	129-88-73	126-166
Roxbury	12-21-0	14-10-3	22-5-9	26-9
Rumford	128-91-1	154-45-63	171-76-40	182-112
Stow	39-45-0	31-13-37	43-51-10	48-57
Stoneham	52-29-8	41-4-46	69-51-3	68-47
Sumner	95-42-61	137-31-97	141-104-25	155-121
Sweden	71-51-0	66-12-53	76-68-14	77-65
Upton	14-15-0		32-2-22	32-30
Waterford	103-193-1	110-126-61	133-77-123	126-210
Woodstock	103-15-30	128-9-66	150-57-11	167-64

(Soldiers of '61, continued from page 6)

one of the most fertile countries the soldiers had ever seen. It was the season of the year when the crops were beginning to ripen, the plantation exhibiting more evidence of thrift and prosperity than any the boys of the Bethel Company had yet seen in rebeldom. They frequently passed large corn and wheat fields of hundreds of acres in extent, and wondered why it should be necessary that men were starved in prison when the land seemed filled with plenty.

They crossed the Chickahominy on the 18th of June '62 and from a rising piece of ground the Rebel capital could be seen three or four miles away. It didn't look so beautiful to them as Damascus to Mahomet when from the hills he first caught sight of its towers and minarets glittering in



Maine Museum Day at the Bethel Historical Society was observed in June with a formal tea and special program. Left to right: Jane Hosterman, Mildred Jackson, and Geraldine Howe.

the sunlight and refused to enter the city because as he said God would not permit a mortal to enter but one Paradise. Our soldiers were anxious to enter Richmond not for the purpose of enjoying of enjoying its pleasures but to overthrow the government of the wickedest and most senseless rebellion every concocted, which had there been located.

They were not permitted at this time to approach any nearer to the city. Gen. R. E. Lee having been appointed Commander of the Army of Northern Virginia, resolved on striking a decisive blow. He caused all available re-enforcements to be summoned to Richmond and Stonewall Jackson to be called from the Shenandoah Valley. The whole of Gen. Lee's troops were thus swelled to 70,000 men. There should have been likewise a concentration of all our forces to meet this movement of the enemy. The plan of the Rebel general was to strike with terrific force each wing of the Union Army in detail, Napoleon like, and destroy it. That this plan did not fully succeed was owing to the persistent valor and "staying qualities" of our northern soldiers when the struggle came. It was however a success so far as to raise the siege of Richmond. The campaign on our part was a disastrous failure.

The blow was delivered at Mechanicsville and it fell on the right wing of our army on Gen. Fitz-John Porter's Corp of 27,000 men on the 26th of June. Stonewall Jackson had not arrived in season to take part in the attack as expected and the enemy was repulsed. The first of the seven days battles was accordingly a Union victory. Our loss was about 400 while the enemy's was numbered by thousands. During the night Gen. Porter's Corps was ordered to fall back and take position at Gaines Mills, a most unfortunate order for us as the Confederate's General Longstreet declares. Our forces should have fortified its position and been reinforced.

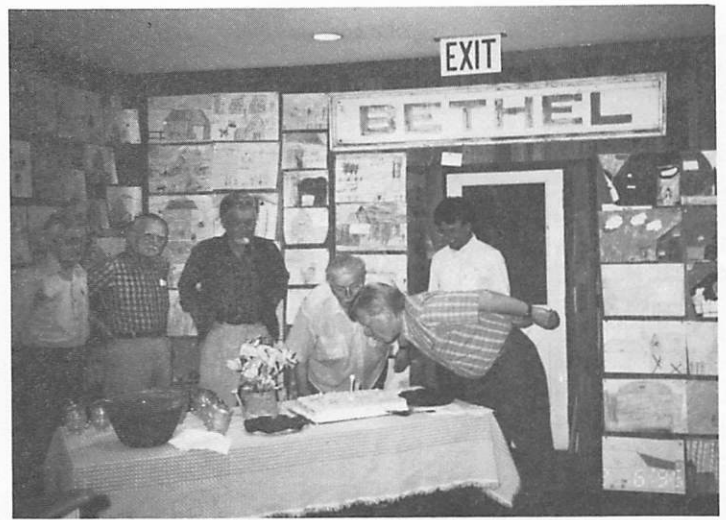
Jackson arrived on the field of Mechanicsville after the battle was over and was in position on the enemy's left for the contest of the morrow.

(continued on page 8)

Early the next morning Col. Bartlett's Brigade (late Slocum's the latter officer having been promoted to the command of the Division) was sent down to the Chickahominy to guard a bridge. The battle had already begun on the other side. The Brigade lay near the bridge till into the afternoon when the order was given to cross and re-enforce Gen. Porter, who was maintaining his ground against heavy odds. He had a somewhat strong position on a ridge rising from a ravine up which the charging columns of the Rebels advanced. Massing their forces they assaulted first one point and then another till our men were becoming exhausted with the fierce and unequal contest. So great was the pressure that Gen. Slocum's Division was divided and sent in piecemeal to the most critical points. The 5th Maine after a march of three or four miles came out on top of the hill at the extreme right with the battle field in full view. Never before nor afterward did the soldiers of the Bethel Company see such a grand and magnificent sight. The smoke of battle rolled off toward their left which gave them a splendid view of the whole field. "Infantry were moving to the front, Cavalry galloping here and there, artillery wheeling and counter wheeling, couriers dashing hither and thither, cannon roaring, musketry rattling, clouds of smoke rising from the field or rolling through the woods; it was indeed an awful scene and grand and sublime."

They reached the position assigned them and were ordered to throw themselves on the ground. It was within a few rods of the enemy's line but protected from his direct fire by the brow of a hill. "Forward Bartlett's Brigade!" With a firm and unbroken front it passed over the hills and advanced toward the Rebels, who were just preparing to open fire upon them. Down they went again flat on their faces while a tremendous volley passed harmlessly over their heads. "Up and at them." On went the Brigade and our boys had approached within twenty or thirty rods, the Confederates broke and fled in great confusion across an open field. Our fire had been reserved till the Rebels began to run when several destructive volleys were poured into them. They were soon out of range when the vacated position was occupied by Bartlett's men. The Rebels having fled with their own lines and reformed, again charged with re-enforcements to capture the position from which they had just been driven. In our front was hedge by the side of a road, which had afforded the enemy protection but was now to be of service to our men. The Rebels advanced in two lines overlapping our right flank. Not a shot answered the volleys of the enemy but every man was waiting with loaded musket for the order to fire. They approached within thirty or forty rods when they received a discharge from the whole length of the line, which thickly strewn the ground with the dead and wounded Rebels. Their ranks quickly closed up and on they came. In the meantime a Union battery had taken position on the hill over which the Brigade had advanced and opened its fire upon them.

Men are falling fast in the 5th Maine. Col. Jackson is wounded and borne to the rear, and Lieut. Col. Heath is shot in the head and killed. Major Scammon being sick and in the hospital the command of Regt. devolved on the brave Captain Edwards, who ably handled his command through the remainder of the day. Capt. Bucknam with his Mechanic Falls company and Company C is ordered to charge the enemy, pressing too closely to their right flank. This movement is finally executed and aided by the bat-



*The 100th anniversary of the founding of the Bethel News, predecessor to the Bethel Citizen, was observed by the Society earlier this year. Left to right: Irving Brown, Donald Brown, John Brown, Bernard Wideman, and current editor Michael Daniels (blowing out candle).*

tery on the hill. Capt. Edwards has the satisfaction of seeing the Rebels for a second time that day break and run.

Thus on the field of battle Capt. Edwards received the command of his Regt. and from this time till it was mustered out of the service, his history is the history of the Fifth Maine. And here let us say, while the Rebels were preparing a second time to charge, that an attempt has been made to write the history of the Regt. with this gallant officer left out or but grudgingly mentioned. As well try to play Hamlet with Hamlet left out. On what bloody field where the colors of the Fifth Maine were floated in victory or uttered in defeat; in what charge were the enemy's line has been pierced and held, or again what retreat when it presented its unbroken front to the confident foe, that he was not at hand, its animating moving and controlling spirit.

I open the history of the Fifth Maine Regt. and there on the front piece I see not the portrait of its brave and efficient colonel (of whom above all others we should expect to see there) but the portrait of the Chaplain of the Regt. and I read in the preface of the book that, "the design has been to avoid all eulogies or even special references to either living officers or men." What more need to be said. The Adj. Gen.'s reports would be a far preferable history. Our design is to write a substantially truthful account according merit where merit is due.

There was a lull now of several hours in this part of the field. Many of the men were nearly out of ammunition and the cartridge boxes of the dead were searched to replenish their small supply. The sun went down on the bloody field, when in a short time the enemy appeared again in overwhelming numbers in three lines deep. The fighting at once became renewed. A Rebel battery was posted on their flanks and an exploding fire opened upon them, which caused them to fall back over the hill and into the ravine, which movement was performing in good order. While it was being executed C.W. Horn of Bethel Company asked permission to remain as he had half a dozen cartridges which he wanted to give the enemy the benefit of. This incident illustrates the character of the men of Capt. Edwards' Company. Is it any wonder that they have left such an excellent record as a fighting organization?



The enemy having regained possession of the road did not follow in pursuit. The scenes and occurrences I have described are but those taking places on other parts of the field. Porter's forces were pressed back and the Rebels took possession of nearly the whole battleground. Gaines' Mill had been fought and lost but it was not a rout. A few thousand additional re-enforcements which it would seem might have been obtained, would have turned Porter's defeat into a glorious victory. The Fifth Maine lost in the battle ten killed, sixty-nine wounded and sixteen missing. It had taken perhaps 500 men into action. Not a member of the Bethel Company was killed or wounded.

That night our forces began the retreat to the James River.

(to be continued in the next issue)

## BOOK REVIEW

THE WHITE MOUNTAINS. Compiled by Randall H. Bennett (Dover, New Hampshire: Allan Sutton, 1994. Pp. 128. Paper \$14.99.)

If one is searching for the perfect gift for the historian in the family, there is no need to look any further. Randall Bennett's meticulous research has paid off in this lavishly illustrated collection. The carefully written and very readable text enhances a superior collection of White Mountain photographs. Although Bennett calls the volume, "a representative rather than a comprehensive overview of the region's history," this reviewer must respectfully disagree. The chronological theme offers a very comprehensive representation of the White Mountain region.

The photographs, many of which have never before been published, are well chosen and skillfully captioned. The diverse collection is satisfyingly grounded by the text, transporting the reader to another, more gracious era. The images of "grand hotel" interiors and guests are particularly evocative.

*The White Mountains* goes beneath the surface to delve into the dynamics that drove all aspects of life to this very special region of Maine and New Hampshire. Bennett has created another not-to-be-missed volume.

David Emerson  
Conway Historical Society

## REFLECTIONS OF A HALF CENTURY

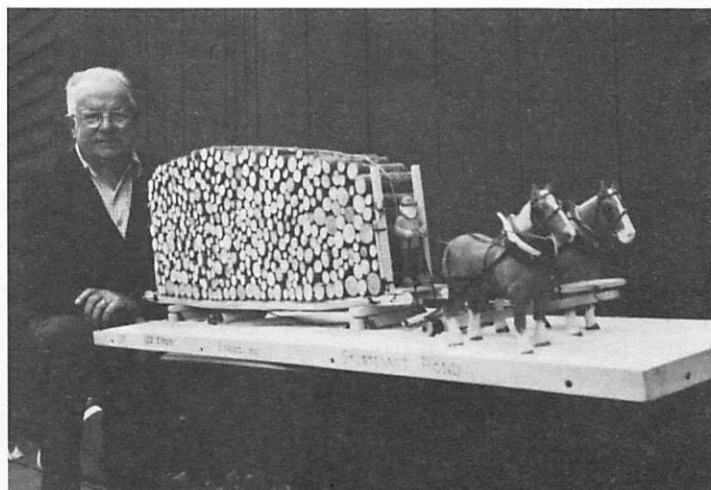
(continued from the last issue)

by L.E. Davis

I left the story of our own business affairs back in 1941 and will now try to pick it up again.

During the winter of 1941, I bought the last of the pine stumpage that was available on the south side of Rapid River and let the job to George Parsons to cut and land it in Umbagog Lake. It wasn't a very big cut, probably about 300,000 board feet and since we had a small boom of logs left over from the year before, the combination of the two made a fair run for the sawmill at "Pugwash," Cambridge, N.H. We finished sawing sometime in early September of 1942.

In September 1942, I decided to cut down the size of my operations to see if I couldn't get a living without working



*Society life member Erland Wentzell of Sebago poses beside the scale model he made over a three year period (1993-95) of the 11.2 cord load of pulp hauled on to Sturtevant Pond in northwestern Maine during the winter of 1932-33. Mr. Wentzell's father Stanley was a longtime Bethel resident, who worked for Marshall Hastings as logging camp foreman. It is currently on display at the Dr. Moses Mason House, a gift of Erland Wentzell.*

quite so hard, and having to handle quite so much responsibility. After all, I would be 50 years old in December and in addition to the sawmills (at one time we were running three of them), we had a retail building supply business, at least one or two logging jobs, and three farms. So I hired a local restaurant and gave a supper party to 8 or 10 of my key men and their wives and told them what I had in mind, and if any of them wanted to go into business for themselves, it might be a good time to try it.

I offered to put a price on any of the sawmills, logging equipment, trucks and also the retail building department, or other equipment that I had. I offered to put a price on the several items for which I would sell it or a price at which it could be leased, and told the men to think it over and let me know within the next two weeks what they wanted to do. The outcome of this deal seems to have been quite satisfactory to about everyone in my crew, and after one or two small adjustments my former business settled into about the following status: Charles Merrill and his wife, Effie, bought the retail building supply business which I sold them on the basis of the cost of the inventory of stock on hand at wholesale plus a nominal price for the goodwill of a business already established. (I don't remember the price of goodwill on which we agreed, but I think around \$250.) I continued to own the building and rented to them. They had no cash to pay down on it, but I took the first mortgage on the stock and a second mortgage on their home and they met all their obligations satisfactorily. Charlie's first wife, Effie, has since died, but he still continues the business. She was a big factor in his success in the business.

Ernest Blake wanted to lease the sawmill on our farm at Middle Intervale, but didn't feel confident that he could swing it alone so he persuaded Richard Davis to go into partnership with him for a while and they operated as a partnership for less than about a year. I leased the sawmill to them for 50 cents per thousand and they were to pay all the taxes and upkeep and on new machinery we split the

(continued on page 10)

cost on a 50-50 basis. The price was later raised to 75 cents per thousand and eventually to \$1 as the taxes which I had to pay were increased and the insurance costs went up. They bought logs and sold the sawed lumber to the same outlet to which I had formerly sold.

Roger Foster wanted to buy one of my trucks and truck the logs for the Davis and Blake Company and I sold him an International truck which I had, but since he had no money to pay down, the truck was to remain mine until paid for and payments were to be on the basis of logs hauled with a small weekly payment when not operated. This type of set-up worked out pretty well for both outfits until November 11 of that same year when the sawmill caught fire and completely burned down. At that time, I had bought the stumpage on land owned by Fred Edwards on the so-called Burknep lots which is now the Bethel Airport property and was selling logs to Davis & Blake and had let the logging job. There were a lot of log cut ahead, which of course should be yarded before snow came. I am not sure but I turned the stumpage deal over to Davis & Blake and Richard was looking after the logging. Anyhow, Roger Foster couldn't take care of the logs after the sawmill burned as they had to be piled, and so he quit hauling and gave up his truck deal.

We immediately started building a new sawmill in a new location farther down river on a bank in the field and where it still stands as of this year of 1959 while I am writing this. I hired Herbert Swan to put up the building and Ernest Blake to rebuild the machinery, and I believe that Richard looked after the logging and trucking. We got the new mill running in February 1943 and it proved to be a better set up than the old one. After this first deal of Davis and Blake was completed as to stumpage and sawing, sometime in the summer of 1943, they dissolved partnership and Ernest Blake continued to lease the new sawmill of me until he built a new one for himself on land that he bought from Clyde Brooks about the year 1945 or 1946. Richard wasn't too happy with the partnership deal and really wanted a sawmill of his own.

Early in the summer of 1943, I sold him the sawmill outfit which I had at Sturtevant Pond and he moved and set it up on the Cole lot which I owned at East Bethel. This was the outfit which I bought of Lloyd Flanders to saw Government Timber Salvage Administration logs with, and was good outfit powered by an International Diesel Engine unit. I sold it to him for the same price which I gave Flanders for it, \$2200.

Richard later moved the machinery to a set up on the Charles Eames farm, Middle Intervale, on a pond which we built on Schoolhouse Brook, and eventually most of the same machinery was moved to his present (1959) location between Alder River and the Canadian National Railway, but at this last location he converted to all electric power.

All of this building and moving was not quite as simple as it might read in the above account. In December of the first year of Richard's operation at East Bethel, he had a fire which destroyed the Diesel power unit, most of the sawmill building and damaged some other machinery but he immediately rebuilt it and used the Catapillar Diesel power unit which I had a Cambridge, N.H. mill.

For two or three years, he moved the machinery from the East Bethel set up to the one at the Charles Eames



*The 1890s watering tub that once stood on lower Main Street was officially dedicated at a ceremony this fall in its new location on the Common. Its restoration was sponsored by the Bethel Rotary Club. From left to right, Richard Duka who did the restoration, Ted Davis, former Rotary President, Stan Howe, who acted as historical consultant, Richard Fain, Rotary President, and Madeleine Henley, Bethel Town Manager, who accepted the gift on behalf of the town.*

farm and back each spring and fall so that he sawed out of the pond during the summer and regular sawmill deck in the winter. We had quite a bit of trouble building the log pond as the ground was nothing but sand on both sides of the brook and it washed out at least twice, but we finally succeeded in making it hold by using baled hay in the bottom and putting gravel ballast over the whole face of the dam.

I think that Ernest Angevine bought one of my tractors and did logging for us for a while, but don't remember for sure whether it was at this same time or not.

After Ernest Blake, Charles Merrill, Roger Foster and Richard Davis went into business for themselves, I was left with the balance of my outfit which was the planing mill and equipment, some logging equipment and the timberland, and I continued to carry on business with these.

This cut down my crew and responsibilities a great deal and I was happy with the outcome and for several years did the planing and shipping for both Ernest Blake and Richard Davis as well as custom planing for others.

This change also gave Marie and I a chance to do something we had wanted to try. The small planing mill crew of four or five men could pretty well take care of themselves during the winter when planing and shipping were a great deal less.

(to be continued in the next issue)

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From the *Oxford Democrat*, 4 August 1874

"Bethel is becoming quite a summer resort, and to commend it, it has a healthy location, beautiful scenery, its proximity to the White Mountains, and last but not least, its excellent hotels and boarding houses which are filled to overflowing."





## MEMBER PROFILE

Lorrie Hoeh

Dolores "Lorrie" Hoeh was born in Cleveland, Ohio, the daughter of Stanley and Anna Bencina. She attended Cleveland public schools and graduated from East High School in 1952 and Hiram College in 1955 with a major in French and English. Married to Richard Hoeh of Needham, MA in 1956, she is the mother of three daughters and has five grandchildren. She lived in Ohio, New York and Massachusetts before moving to Albany, Maine in 1987. She taught high school English and did substitute teaching before earning a masters degree in counseling from the University of Akron. She was employed as a high school and later an elementary guidance counselor.

Since moving to the Bethel area, she has taught parenting classes in the adult education program of SAD # 44, served as a trustee for the Bethel Area Health Center, volunteered for the Mahoosuc Arts Council, and taught spinning in the Society-sponsored Elderhostel program at Sunday River Inn.

## EDITOR'S CORNER

Readers of the *Courier* should realize that the lead article in this issue was done in a few hours on the word processor that I acquired earlier this year. It has been ten years since I gave this paper and it has sat on my shelf of projects that needed to be completed all that time. It just seemed like an impossible job for me and my old reliable Olympia manual typewriter, which it probably was.

As I worked more and more on my word processor during the summer and fall, my courage to take on more ambitious projects grew to the point where I thought this one might be a good one to attempt and see what happened. I finished it in record time and was able to include it in this issue.

Needless to say, I am now a committed computer addict and am living testimony that mechanical incompetence is no barrier to success. To any of you who have not taken the plunge, by all means do. It will change your whole life and make the writing process as easy as breathing.

SRH

As a volunteer for the Bethel Historical Society, she has served several years as head of the Craft Committee, on the Museum Committee, as a guide in the museum, and this fall was elected to the Board of Trustees.

Her hobbies include skiing, canoeing, fishing, cooking, reading, spinning, and entertaining the grandchildren.

## RICHARDSON LAKES BOOK TO BE PRINTED IN JANUARY

The long-awaited Society publication, *The Richardson Lakes: Jewels in the Rangeley Chain*, written by Herbert P. Shirrefs and edited by Society Curator of Collections Randall H. Bennett, is scheduled to be printed in January and sent to the bindery later in the month. If no delays are experienced during this process, the book should be ready for distribution in late February or early March.

## Join the Bethel Historical Society, Western Maine's historical research center.

Membership in the Society entitles you to:

1. free admission to the museum
2. special discounts in the museum store
3. preferred rate for meeting room rental
4. special library and archival privileges
5. quarterly publication, *The Bethel Courier*
6. reduced course fees
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☐ Life over 55 years (Couple) - \$125

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*This 1870s photo is the one intended for the last issue depicting the family of John Mead Gould (1839-1930), holding Theodore (1873-1966), with daughter Annie Gould (1867-1900), wife Amelia Twitchell Gould (1842-1926), and son Oliver (1870-1953). This photo was also the gift of Roxanne Twitchell Sly. The one printed in the summer issue was taken in the 1890s and was inadvertently used instead of this one. The editor apologizes for any confusion this error may have caused.*



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*Late 19th century view of the Jesse Dustin house, built about 1780 in the present town of Hanover, once part of Bethel. This is Oxford County's only surviving 18th century gambrel-roofed house.*

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